

REMARKS

Claims 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Accordingly, these claims have been amended to obviate this problem.

Claims 1-23 have been indicated as being allowable.

Claims 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kirwin (U.S. Patent No. 5,291,954).

Accordingly claims 24-27 been amended to recite that the forward end of the tongue is disposed in front of the (“both wing sections” for claim 24, “inner and outer wing sections” for claim 25 and “at least three wing sections” for claim 26) so that such forward end of the tongue can be adapted to be attached to the rear of a tractor. In contrast, the Kirwin device has the (“both wing sections” for claim 24, “inner and outer wing sections” for claim 25 and “at least three wing sections” for claim 26) more forward than what Examiner Batson is reading as the tongue of Kirwin.

The changes made in this Amendment were given to Examiner Batson on January 25, 2007 and in a voice mail message on February 9, 2007 Examiner Batson said that these changes would overcome all of the rejections in the Office Action of January 22, 2007.

Accordingly, since all remaining claims 1–27 are believed to be clearly allowable, a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaughn L. Bauer

February 12, 2007

By: /Michael O. Sturm/
Michael O. Sturm
Reg. No. 26,078

STURM & FIX LLP
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076
Phone: 515-288-9589
Fax: 515-288-4860
e-mail: sturm@hslp.com